

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

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TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

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FROM AF/C

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, PORS, BEXP, GB

SUBJECT: SALE OF ESCORT VEHICLES TO GOG

1. HESS AND EISENHARDT PRESIDENT JAMES CENTNER HAS INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT VEHICLES ORDERED BY GOG WILL BE READY ON FOLLOWING SCHEDULE: (A) BY DECEMBER 30, ONE LIMOUSINE AND ONE ESCORT VEHICLE; (B) BY JANUARY 30, ONE LIMOUSINE AND THREE ESCORT VEHICLES; AND (C) TOWARDS END OF FEBRUARY, REMAINING TWO ESCORT VEHICLES. THIS REPRESENTS SLIGHT SLIPPAGE FROM DELIVERY DATES PROMISED IN HIS LETTER OF NOVEMBER 15, BUT STILL MEETS BONGO'S DESIRE TO HAVE ALL VEHICLES IN TIME FOR RENOVATION DAY.

2. CENTNER HAS NOT YET HEARD FROM GOG RE FINAL PAYMENT (WHICH HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE PRIOR TO FIRST DELIVERY), NOR HAS HE HEARD ANYTHING RE TRANSPORT OF VEHICLES. IT IS APPARENTLY BONGO'S INTENTION TO PICK THEM UP WITH FOUR SEPARATE L-100 TRIPS (EACH L-100 WILL CARRY TWO VEHICLES), BUT H AND E HAS NO CONFIRMATION OF THAT.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THERE ARE PLANS TO SEND NEWLY-ACQUIRED SECOND L-100 BACK TO GEORGIA LAST WEEK OF JANUARY FOR
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SCHEDULED SERVICING. GABONESE AMBASSADOR KOMBILA IS

CABLING GOG TO SUGGEST USING THAT FLIGHT TO PICK UP TWO

VEHICLES.

4. GOG INTENTIONS RE INSTALLING MOTOROLA RADIOS ALSO A QUESTION MARK. MOTOROLA/USA HAS NOT YET RECEIVED ORDER SUGGESTED IN CENTNER-BONGO LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 27. IF GOG WANTS RADIOS INSTALLED PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FROM U.S. (PROBABLY PREFERABLE TO HAVING IT DONE IN GABON), IT SHOULD TAKE ACTION NOW TO ORDER THEM.

4. TO AVERT LAST-MINUTE SCRAMBLING, EMBASSY MAY WISH SUGGEST TO GOG THAT IT TIE DOWN PAYMENT, TRANSPORT, AND RADIO ARRANGEMENTS ASAP. KISSINGER

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